6611 Ridge Road

Parma, OH 44129

Phone: 440-885-8001

Fax: 440-885-8172

August 16, 2007

Dear Resident:

As promised, enclosed is information regarding financial assistance available for those affected by the August 7, 2007 storm.

Although Cuyahoga County did not qualify for disaster relief from FEMA, we have worked diligently to engage other governmental agencies and we are happy to report that several different programs are available.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance Program has been made available to the residents that incurred damage from the flooding on August 7, 2007. The SBA program can provide low interest disaster assistance loans. In addition, the Governor has made available the State Individual Assistance Program. Below outlines the SBA and State Individual Assistance programs:

<u>Small Business Administration (SBA)</u> - Provides <u>loans</u> up to \$200,000 residential and \$500,000 to businesses impacted by the disaster event. Loans are low interest and usually in the range of 4% and 8% (*For the July 2007 flood, the interest rates were 3.1% and 6.25%*).

<u>State Individual Assistance Program (St. IA)</u> - Funds are available to individuals and families through the Ohio EMA to reimburse for uninsured eligible items damaged or lost from a natural disaster event. The state program is based on elements of FEMA's Individuals and Households Grant Program and can provide up to \$16,800 for serious needs and necessary expenses not provided by the SBA or other assistance.

Also available to Parma residents is TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) – Cash vouchers are available through the Cuyahoga County Department of Jobs and Family Services. Individuals with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level are eligible for assistance (although this requirement is sometimes waived for certain circumstances, in accordance with the county's discretion). You may be qualified to receive vouchers with values up to \$1500 in state funds per household. Elderly and disabled individuals who do not qualify may be eligible for a one-time voucher with a value of up to \$750. There are income restrictions and documentation necessary for the application. Applications will be available in Council Chambers.

Representatives and applications from the above listed agency will be available to assist individuals at Parma City Hall

Council Chambers
6611 Ridge Road
Parma, Ohio 44129

Friday, August 17 9:00am - 5:00 pm Hours are:

Saturday, August 18 10:00am - 1:00pm August 20 and 21 9:00am - 5:00pm 9:00am - 7:00pm August 22

August 23 and 24 9:00am - 5:00pm (Representatives from County

JFS may also be available on these dates)

Parma Community Services and Economic Development Department – The Department offers \$150 reimbursement vouchers to residents 65 and over for home cleanup. All residents living in the house must be 65 or over and the home must be in the resident's name. Eligible residents should call (216) 661-7372 for more information. There are no income requirements and this money is available only for cleanup. Receipts from a contractor that has done the cleanup work must be provided.

After September 1, 2007 residents may apply for a grant program for seniors and low income residents that will help with structural repairs such as buckled flooring, damaged drywall, furnace/hot water tank replacements or repairs due to water damage. This is a maximum of \$2,000 per homeowner, and requires a 50% contribution from the owner. Again, please note that this program is available to seniors and residents who would qualify under the income guidelines.

Information on the City of Parma programs is available by calling the Community Services and Economic Development Department at (216) 661-7372. Representatives will not be in Council Chambers. Interested applicants should call the number listed above.

We encourage residents who experienced damage from last week's flooding to take advantage of as many of these funding sources as possible. Even if you feel you may not qualify, we urge residents to apply before making any assumptions about their qualifications.

Residents who experienced flooding may also wish to contact their homeowners' insurance carrier to learn if they may have access to an addition of flood coverage in their policy.

As always, we hope that you find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact City Hall if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mayor, Dean DePiero

Brian Day, Councilman Ward 4

Kenneth Ramser, Councilman Ward 7 Scott Tuma, Councilman Ward 8

Mary Galmas, Councilwoman Ward 1 Sean Brennax, Councilman Ward 2

Tom Regas, Councilman Ward 5

Charles Germana, Council President

Nick Celebrezze Councilman Ward 3

Larry Napoli, Councilman Ward 6

Roy J. Jech, Councilman Ward 9